Tungabhadra Steel Products Ltd., British India Corporation, HMT Machine Tools Ltd., Central Inland Water Transport Corporation and Tyre Corporation of India Ltd. have been identified by the Government for revival through joint ventures. In addition, Government have also approved other merger/amalgamation like Indian Iron & Steel Company Ltd. (IISCO) with SAIL, subsidiaries of NTC Ltd. with their holding company and Indian Airlines Ltd. with Air India Ltd.

Extension of pipelines gas connections in the country

806. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set any target for extending pipelines gas connections in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating how much of financial assistance is required and how it will be fulfilled for providing piped gas connections in the country;

(c) whether any objections have been raised by the present dealers and distributers of IOC, IBP, HPCL and BPCL; and

(d) if so, what are their objections towards Government's decision for extending piped gas-line in the country and Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) No such target has been fixed. The extension of pipeline gas connections in various parts of the country is linked with availability of gas, commissioning of necessary infrastructure and economic viability. Government of India does not allocate funds for providing piped gas connections in the country. Entities allocate and spend funds according to the plans of their projects.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The LPG distributors, appointed by the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), have not raised any objection. However, All India LPG Distributors Federation (AILPGDF) has submitted a representation for rehabilitation of pipe gas affected distributors which, *inter alia*, requested for resitement of distributorships to alternative areas where pipeline network expansion is in progress. OMCs have reported that they have noted the position about the expansion of piped gas network while planning new LPG distributorships in the country.

Pricing of gas imported from Iran

807. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of Iran-Pakistan-India Gas Pipeline;

(b) whether it is a fact that there are some differences with Iran or pricing method of Gas as well as conflicts with Pakistan on gas transport tariff;

(c) if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto; and

(d) what strategy Government would like to take for getting enough natural gas for the future need?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) India has been pursuing the import of natural gas